



The Newsletter of the High Country, Tolland Massachusetts

The Tolland Tattler

Published by the Board of Selectmen

FEBRUARY 2004

NOTICE

To the Voters of the Town of Tolland, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
A Citizens' Caucus
will be held at the Town Hall, Tolland, Massachusetts on
Monday, March 1, 2004 at 7:00pm
to nominate candidates for the following town officers after a Caucus Chairman
and Secretary are chosen:

Blank

The Budget Hearing & The Annual Town Meeting

Fellow Tolland Taxpayers:

It seems at every Budget Hearing and Annual Town Meeting questions arise regarding various terms and phrases used by the Selectmen, Department Heads and Finance Advisory Committee (FAC). It's tough enough figuring out town finances but when that difficulty is compounded by unfamiliar Government-speak it gets down right frustrating.

We on the Finance Committee recognize this and have endeavored to help out by submitting answers to frequently asked questions starting with this issue of the Tattler.

The first area to clarify is the distinction between the two most important meetings the town holds and they are the Budget Hearing and the Annual Town Meeting.

Each fiscal year, July 1st to June 30th, a town must decide what services they want and how they are going to pay for them. This is referred to as "The Budget".

Budget Hearing:

The budget process starts in earnest when each Department Head in the town submits his or her budget for the fiscal year. In Tolland, the Selectmen require the departmental budgets n/l/t/ 8 March.

The FAC reviews each budget request with the Department Head present which is helpful in the event clarifications are needed. Subsequent to the FAC's review and analysis a vote is taken within the Finance Committee and our recommendation is forwarded to the Board of Selectmen. When the Selectmen are satisfied with each Department Head's budget, the annual Budget Hearing is scheduled.

The Annual Budget Hearing is where the taxpayers have an opportunity to review and ask questions about the proposed budget. The Budget Hearing is the appropriate setting to grill everyone involved in spending your money. Present at the meeting are the Selectmen, Department Heads and the FAC.

Annual Town Meeting:

After the Budget Hearing at the Town Hall the Annual Town Meeting is held. This is where the actual voting takes place on the various budget line items by the townspeople.

Taxpayers are encouraged to attend the Budget Hearing prior to the Annual Town Meeting. This way discourse and debate has taken place at the appropriate venue and not during Town Meeting.

Recap:

- The Budget Hearing precedes the Annual Town Meeting.
- The appropriate venue to debate the issues.
- No voting takes place.

- The Annual Town Meeting is where budget line items are voted on.
- Revisiting details previously debated at the Budget Hearing discouraged.

Comments regarding this memo are welcome.

Tolland Finance Advisory Committee

Fire Department News

Open burning season is here once again.

Permits can be found in the mailbox which is attached to the Police Garage at the Transfer Station. To activate your permit: Call 258-4251. The message on the machine will tell you if burning is permitted that day. Leave your name, phone number, and address.

The Wildwood Property Owners' Association has prohibited the burning of brush in Wildwood.

[Black Fly Day](#)

From the Board of Selectmen

Once again we head into a new year and the beginning of the budget process starts. Forms will be sent to department heads to have them start the difficult process of setting budgets.

The Chapter 90 roadwork proposal has been approved. Due to the late approval of this fiscal year's budget, we will have to wait for warmer weather for the projects to begin.

We are working on filling the Highway Superintendent position and getting our highway department back to full strength. With the cold and snow, the extra hands are needed.

Pat Baceski has submitted her resignation and will be retiring in April. She will be missed. We are placing an ad in the Tattler looking for qualified applicants to fill this position.

Also, we send out deepest condolences to the Burrall's on the loss of their mother.

This has been an extremely cold winter!!! Please take care and bundle up. Make sure your children stay warm and dry. Deep an eye on your elderly neighbors; this time of year can be difficult for them. Remember; let's not forget our pets.

New Town Trash Bags Will Soon Be Available

The new trash bags will be for sale on February 1st and will be available at the Tolland Town Hall, The High Country General Store, and the Tolland Transfer Station. The cost will be \$7 for ten tall kitchen bags and \$14 for ten 33 gallon-bags. Only these "Town of Tolland" bags will be allowed at the dump starting February 8, 2004, no exceptions. There will be a representative from the town at the transfer station on February 1, 4, and 7 to sell bags and dump passes. Please bring your checkbook as only checks made out to the Town of Tolland will be accepted.

Thank you and we appreciate your patience during this transition.

Ben Luxon to present WWI Poetry Program at Sandisfield Arts Center

Sandisfield - On Sunday, February 15th at 6 P.M., Ben Luxon will present "Poetry, Poets and the First World War" at the New Boston Inn in Sandisfield. Tickets are \$25 per person including supper, dessert and coffee at the start of the evening. Proceeds from the event will go to the Sandisfield Arts Center.

The program will trace the effect on the soldier-poets who experienced the horrors of World War I. This war was billed as "the war to end all wars", but it heralded the most violent century in the history of the human race, killing 10 million men and maiming and wounding 20 million others.

Luxon, the world-renowned British baritone, will read the poetry of Siegfried Sassoon, Winfred Owen, Isaac Rosenberg and Robert Graves, among others. They describe bitterly, graphically and movingly the experience of the cruel authority, slaughter, mud, cold, gas, rats, lice and the incomprehension of civilians at home. They came to understand the real cost of war and the vanity of that cost. Sadly, as history has unfolded, their message is still relevant and powerful.

Luxon, who lives in Sandisfield with his wife, Susie Crofut, has been recording speaking roles instead of singing roles since becoming partially deaf in the 1990's. His latest recording of "Enoch Arden", a melodrama for speaker and piano composed by Richard Strauss around the poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson, was released in April 2003 by JRI Recordings.

To reserve a ticket for this special event or information, call (413) 258-4994.

From the Town Clerk

Position Opening: Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen of Tolland is seeking a self-motivated, experienced and qualified individual for the above position.

- Applications and job description available at the Town Hall
- Starting Salary is \$11.90/hr for a 32 hour week minimum.
- Please submit application, resume and references to the Board by March 8, 2004

Sullivan ad



***Bob
Gaynor
Painting Company***

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR

Call 413 -258-4447

Rahn ad

Town Hall Offices Open Monday and
Tuesday from 8 - 4 pm

Town Clerk's and Assessor Clerk's hours:

10 am to 3pm and 6pm to 7pm
EVERY MONDAY

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 0 4

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---------|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|--|
| 1 3:00 - 5:00 pm DUMP | 2 6:00 Selectmen 7:00 Department Heads | 3 | 4 5-7:00pm DUMP | 5 | 6 | 7 9 - 11:00 am DUMP |
| 8 3:00 - 5:00 pm DUMP | 9 6:00 Selectmen | 10 | 11 5-7:00pm DUMP | 12 Llincoln's Birthday | 13 | 14 9 - 11:00 am DUMP Valentine's Day |
| 15 3:00 - 5:00 pm DUMP | 16 PRESIDENTS' DAY Town Hall Closed | 17 | 18 5-7:00pm DUMP | 19 | 20 | 21 9 - 11:00 am DUMP |
| 22 3:00 - 5:00 pm DUMP Washington's Birthday | 23 6:00 Selectmen 7:00 Planning Board 7:00 Board of Assessors | 24 | 25 5-7:00pm DUMP | 26 | 27 | 28 9 - 11:00 am DUMP |
| 29 3:00 - 5:00 pm DUMP | <p>NOTICE: Building Inspector Hours: Winter Building Inspector Hours by appointment only. Mondays 5-5:30pm. Please call 258-4590 to set appointment.</p> <p>Library Hours: Mon. 3:00pm - 8:30pm Thurs. 11:00am - 4:00pm Sat. 10:00am - 12:00pm</p> | | | | | |

THE TOLLAND TATTLER is a monthly newsletter, and a non-profit, volunteer publication by the Board of Selectmen of Tolland, Massachusetts. It is distributed free to residents. The Tolland Tattler solicits news and calendar items from town boards and community groups, and will try to print all the news received. The editor does not write news, but reserves the right to edit all copy.

DEADLINE: Copy and calendar events must be received by the 20th of each month. Items can be mailed to the Town Hall, dropped off at the Town Hall or by E-Mail to: jeanwillow@crocker.com

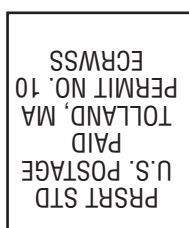
ADVERTISING RATES AND SIZES: Prices and mechanical specifications can be obtained by contacting:

The Tolland Tattler
Jean Jinks, Editor
Tolland Town Hall
241 West Granville Road
Tolland MA 01034

PHONE: 413-258-4217
E-MAIL jeanwillow@crocker.com

Postal Customer
HC 68
Tolland, MA 01034

Tolland Town Hall
241 West Granville Road
Tolland, MA 01034



to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be typed, signed, and received by the 20th of the month deadline for insertion in the following months newsletter.

Tolland Scenes Note Cards

Six different folded notecards and matching envelopes with written description on back of each

Available now

at the High Country Store. \$8:00 per package of six cards and envelopes.

Classified Advertising

Life Guard. Part time. Memorial Day to Labor Day. Private association pond beach. Light to moderate crowds. CPR, First Aid and Water Safety required. Must be willing to complete necessary training and certification prior to start of duties. Association will reimburse training and certification costs.

Wage commensurate with experience.

Please apply to Will Greene, WPOA Manager, 254 Beetle, Tolland, MA 01034.

Telephone (413) 258-4900

Yardwork. Need help with yardwork? I am a hardworking 13 year old boy looking for summer work. Willing to do: Raking - Weeding - Lawn Mowing, Gardening, etc.

Please call Tony at 258-0285

Also looking for lawnmowers, running or not. (Cheap).

NASCAR tickets. NASCAR Winston Cup Tickets for the New England 300 at New Hampshire International Speedway for Sunday July 20th, 2003 at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$95.00 ea. Turn Four Laconia Grandstand. Section T, Row 26, seat(s) 5 & 6. Please call Jack or Diane Alia @ 258-8184. Tickets must be paid in advance, cash or money order.

Tolland Weather



TOLLAND WEATHER

Prepared by Steve Strinie

Period: November 22, 2003 thru December 13, 2003 ,2003

Elevation: 1500 feet above sea level.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Temperature: | High - 58 degrees F. on Nov. 28 at 10:00pm Low - 7 degrees F. on Dec 3 at 12:00am |
| Humidity: | Maximum - 100% several times Minimum - 20% Dec. 2 at 12:00pm |
| Dewpoint: | Maximum - 58 degrees on Nov. 28 at 10:00pm Minimum - 0 degrees on Dec 2 at 1:00p m |
| Barometric Pressure: | Maximum - 30.44" on Dec. 3 at 10:00am Minimum - 29.16" on Nov. 29 at 1:00am |
| Wind Speed: | 52 mph Northwest on Nov. 29 at 1:00pm |
| Wind Chill: | -30 degrees on Dec. 3 at 2:00am |
| Total Rain Fall | 5.60 inches |
| Total Snowfall | 25 inches as of Dec. 20, 2003 |

Comments: Thank you to Bob Ueberbacher and Henry Mulvaney for help with snowfall measurements. The weather station is on "Holiday Calibration" up at the factory in Bar Harbor and should be back up and running in January.

We will continue to take snowfall measurements... *Happy New Year!!!*



***Bob
Gaynor
PaintingCompany***

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR

Call 413 -258-4447

Compliments of

Senator Mike Knapik
2nd Hampden & Hampshire District

Senate District Office
57 North Elm Street
Westfield, MA 01085
Phone (413) 562-6454

Paid for by the Knapik Committee, Richard E. Onofrey, Jr.,
Treas., 45 Ridgecrest Drive, Westfield, MA 01085